

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT 4

Digest

This proposed amendment would establish the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the city-owned multi-modal transportation system under the unified responsibility of the director of transportation. Any O&M contracts or personnel under the authority of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) would be transferred to the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) on July 1, 2017. DTS would be solely responsible for integration and coordination of public transit services. The Transportation Commission would be repealed, and a Rate Commission would be created to review and provide recommendations at least annually regarding adjustments needed in fares, rates, and tariffs. The responsibilities of the HART Board would be amended to include determining the policies for approval of certain agreements with the federal, public or private entities.

Question

Should a unified multi-modal transportation system be created by:

- 1) Forming a Rate Commission to annually review and recommend adjustments to bus and paratransit fares, rail fares and parking fees;
- 2) Placing operations and maintenance responsibilities for bus, paratransit and rail solely in the Department of Transportation Services and providing for the transfer of positions and legal rights and obligations relating to rail operations and maintenance from the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) to the Department of Transportation Services effective July 1, 2017; and
- 3) Clarifying the responsibility of the HART Board to establish policies, rules, and regulations regarding the development of the rail system, the internal management and organization of HART, and the allocation of decision-making authority between the Board and the agency's executive director and staff, and amending the responsibilities of the HART Board to include determining the policies for approval of certain agreements with the federal, public or private entities?

Yes ____ **No** ____

Present Situation

The Charter currently assigns fare setting for bus and paratransit to the Transportation Commission, with final approval by the City Council, and the setting of rail fares to HART. There is no advisory review board dedicated to the regular review of fares and rates. The Charter assigns operations and maintenance (O&M) of bus and paratransit to DTS and rail to HART. The Charter states that the HART Board is not to interfere in the administrative affairs of HART.

If Proposal Passes

The operations and maintenance (O&M) of the city-owned multi-modal transportation system would be unified under the director of transportation services. All O&M contracts and O&M personnel at the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) would be transferred to the Department of Transportation Services effective July 1, 2017. The Department of Transportation Services would become solely responsible for the integration and coordination of public transportation services. The mayor and the City Council would appoint the members of a Rate Commission, and the Commission would review and recommend, at least annually, adjustments to fares, rates, and tariffs. The authority of the HART Board to establish policies, rules, and regulations regarding the development of the rail system, the internal management and organization of HART, and the allocation of decision-making authority between the Board and administrative staff would be clarified. Also, the responsibilities of the HART Board would be amended to include determining the policies for approval of certain agreements with the federal, public or private entities.